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THE CASE

OF

JANE MARIE,

EXHIBITING

THE CRUELTY AND BARBAROUS CONDUCT

OF

JAMES ROSS,

TO A DEFENCELESS WOMAN.

Written and published by the object of his cruelty and vengeance;

AND ADDRESSED TO THE

PUBLIC OF PHILADELPHIA

AND THE WHOLE OF

PENNSYLVANIA.

Sep. 1808.

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THE CASE

OF

JANE MARIE,

EXHIBITING THE CRUELTY AND BARBAROUS CONDUCT OF

JAMES ROSS.

TO THE PUBLIC

LETTER I.

I HAVE seen in the public newspapers my name introduced in two or three instances; and a publication in particular, in which the name of my husband is employed to serve the purposes of Mr. James Ross, of Pittsburg. I subjoin that publication to this, (see Appendix A.) and, in reply to the statement made in that publication, in the name of John Marie and Felix Brunot—on the part of James Ross, esq.

I, Jane Marie, now of the city of Philadelphia, to the allegations made and published in the papers exhibited to me, as copies of affidavits of my husband John Marie, and Felix Brunot, do say and declare as follows: That I hold in my possession a legal instrument, duly entered on record, in the county of Allegany, with the seal of the recorder's office thereunto affixed, and of which the following is a copy, the original is deposited in the hands of the printer.

(COPY.)

Know all men by these presents, that John Marie, of the town of Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegany and state of Pennsylvania, in consideration that my wife Jane Marie, will without force or coercion, sign a deed of conveyance to George Stevenson of the town and county aforesaid; conveying to him, the said George, all that lot of ground, which the said John agreed to convey to the said George, situate, lying and being amongst the out lots in the town of Pittsburgh, and adjoining lots of Matthew Ernest and Andrew Watson, doth covenant and agree with the said Jane, that he, the said John, shall not, at any time hereafter, grant, bargain or sell, lease or convey, to any person whatever, for any consideration whatever, that lot or piece of ground, with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging, on which the said John and Jane now live; situate, lying and being marked in the general plan of the town of Pittsburgh, No. 6, outlot, or any part thereof, with-

out the full consent and approbation of her, the said Jane, first had and procured by him, the said John.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 12th day of February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven.

JOHN MARIE.

Witness present.
SARAH M'DOWELL,
ALEXANDER M'DOWELL.

I, Jane Marie, do solemnly swear, in the presence of Alexander and Sarah M'Dowell, and John Marie, to never put my hand to paper, concerning this place (Grant's Hill) on which we now live, so help me God.

Allegany County, ss.

(SEAL.)

Be it remembered, that the within named John Marie, personally appeared before me, one of the justices, assigned to keep the peace, in and for the county aforesaid; and acknowledged the within instrument of writing, to be his act and deed, and that it might be recorded as such. —Given under my hand and seal, this 13th day of February, 1797.

ALEXANDER M'DOWELL.

Allegany County, ss.

Recorded in the office for recording of deeds, in and for the said county, and in book F, page 448. Given under my hand and seal of office, at Pittsburgh, the 22d of April, 1797.

SAML. JONES, Recorder.

And further, I, the said Jane Marie, do declare, that no application was ever made to me for the signing of any deed, nor any intimation given of a sale, or intended sale, of my property, in dower, at Grant's Hill, until three days after Mr. Marie departed ftom Pittsburgh; that on the third day of January, 1803, Mr. Ross accompanied my husband out of Pittsburgh, and lodged with him at the inn of Mr. Peoples, twenty miles on this side of Pittsburgh, that night; that the first information of any such purposed, or intended, or surreptitious sale, was communicated to me by the lady of Mr. Steele Semple, at Pittsburgh, which information I told her was not entitled to credit, nor did I believe it possible. And my reasons for this belief, besides the imperious obligation contained in the paper of which the above is a copy of record; the following power of attorney was deposited by my husband, Mr. John Marie, in the hands of Mr. John Johnston, now post-master at Pittsburgh; and what further rendered it altogether impossible for me to believe or credit this information was, that this power of attorney (the original is deposited also in the hands of the printer) is in the *hand writing* of the aforesaid James Ross, esquire, and subscribed by Mr. Johntson and the said James Ross as witnesses; and the name is in the hand writing of my husband, with his seal

thereunto affixed; and even the indorsement is in the writing of Mr Ross; and what is worthy of remark, though my husband left Pittsburgh with Mr. Ross on the third of January, this power of attorney, written in the hand of Mr. Ross, is dated the fourteenth of the same month.

Know all men, by these presents, That I, John Marie, of Pittsburgh, do hereby make, constitute, and appoint my loving wife, Jane Marie, to be my lawful attorney for me, in my name, and for my use to collect, receive, and recover all monies due to me from any person or persons in the western parts of Pennsylvania, and receipts and discharges for the same to give, also to dispose of and to make sales of any part of my personal property, at such prices, and to such persons, as she may think proper, and possession thereof to deliver, hereby ratifying whatsoever my said attorney may or can do in the premises by virtue hereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 4th day of January, 1803.

JOHN MARIE.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of
JOHN JOHNSTON,
JAMES ROSS.

And the said Jane Marie doth further declare, although this reported sale was spoken of, and many cruel and barbarous means were resorted to to deprive me and my child of our house and home, and although we were finally in a manner cruel and shocking, which shall be laid before the public in due time, barbarously forced and beaten out of our house; no evidence or appearance of evidence of a legal character or form, was offered, or given, to show by what authority, or under what legal pretence, Mr. Ross claimed to deprive me of my house, and furniture and home; until on the second day of August, 1803, having advertised my household goods for sale, Messrs. John Johnston and Steele Semple, called on me, and stated to me, that there was a power of attorney given by my husband to those two gentlemen, jointly with John Lucas and Thomas Collins, superceding the power to me, and desiring me to stop the sale—but no power of attorney was then shewn to me, nor did I ever see any paper answering to such an alledged character, for more than a month afterwards, when I called at the recorder's office in company with Mr. Ayres, attorney at law, and there saw a paper, of which the following is a copy *translated*:

(TRANSLATION.)

We, Peter Bartholemew Portal, judge, executing the office of president of the tribunal of commerce of Bordeaux, certify to all whom it may concern, that the signature placed at the bottom of the other side, is that of the citizen, M. Comyn, sworn and received interpreter to the said tribunal, and that faith ought to be given thereto, both in and out of judicature—In witness whereof we have caused the seal of the tribunal

to beaffixed, opposite to these presents.—Done at Bordeaux, in the council chamber, twenty third of Floreal, the year twelve.

(Signed) PORTAL,

Judge, executing the office of, &c,

Translation of a power of attorney made by me, M. Comyn, sworn interpreter to the tribunal of commerce, for the district of Bordeaux, in the republic of France, from French into English, of which the contents are as follows.

Before Joseph Guy and his colleague undersigned notaries in Bordeaux, appeared John Marie, being this day in Bordeaux, lodged on the front of the Chartrons, No 145, at the house of citizen John Bernard, who revoking by these presents, all powers given by him heretofore, to citizen Donnely Jane Marie his wife, that the powers no longer have any effect in future, has made and constituted for his general and special attornies, the citizens Steel Samole, Thomas Collins, John Johnston, and John Lucas, esqs. all inhabitants of Pittsburgh, in the state of Pennsylvania, to whom he gives power, for him, and in his name, to rule, manage, govern, and administer all his property, and the affairs which he may have, to receive for this purpose, all sums that are due to him, and that may be due to him hereafter, on whatever title and whatever cause it may be, to give acquittances and valid discharges for the receipt of said sums, to revoke themselves, if the above revocation should not be sufficient—all powers given by him, to his said wife, to withdraw out of her hands, all titles, notes and papers, which she may have belonging to him, to hear all accounts, discuss them, and determine the balance of them, to receive or pay them, and give, or take acquittances, to end and determine all affairs—and particularly empowers them to transmit to, and put in possession citizen James Ross, esq. inhabitant of the same place, of six acres and a half of ground, with the houses appurtenances, and dependences, No 6, situated in the out-lot of the town of Pittsburgh, which said John Marie, sold to the said James Ross; to put in execution in every respect, said bill of sale, and in general to do for the interest of the said John Marie, in order to effect the premises, all that his said attornies shall think proper, and if it should be necessary for the execution of the above powers, to sue, attack and defend in all tribunals competent, all suits, differences and contestations, whatsoever, against all persons, to obtain all judgements, put them in execution by seizures, oppositions and other pursuits to desist from them, grant deliveries, plead, oppose, appeal, fix residences, constitute and revoke lawyers, treat, transact, compound, receive all accounts, substitute the present powers entirely or in part, promising to agree to every thing his said attorneys shall do, obliging, &c.—Made and passed at Bordeaux, in the office of said Guy one of said notaries, the nineteenth of Floreal, the eleventh year of the French republic, and after these presents being read to the person who empowers, he has signed with the said notaries, the original which remains in possession of said Guy.—Registered in Bordeaux the twentieth Floreal, eleventh year—Received one franc and ten centimes tax.

(Signed) CONSTAND.
BARBARIE.
GUY.

We, Martial Lonstan Lamothe, first vice president of the tribunal of first instance, in the district of Bordeaux, department of Gironde, certify to all those whom it may concern, that the above signatures are those of citizens Guy and Barbaric, public notaries of this city, and that faith ought to be given to them, as well in as out of judgment.—Given in Bordeaux, the twentieth of Floreal, the eleventh year of the republic.

(Signed) LONSTAN LAMOTHE.

I. M. Comyn, sworn interpreter to the tribunal of commerce of Bordeaux, certify the present translation to be sincere, true and conformable to the original.—Bordeaux, the 22d Floreal, eleventh year, or 12th May, 1803, old style.

M. COMYN.

I, William Lee, commercial agent of the United States of America, for the port and district of Bordeaux, do certify, That the signature above is that of citizen Portal, president (*pro tem.*) of the tribunal of commerce for the city of Bourdeax, and that full faith and credit ought to be given to his acts as such.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand (L. S.) and affixed my seal of office this sixteenth day of May, 1803

WILLIAM LEE.

The words *pro tem.* being interlined

JOHN MARIE.

Allegheny county, ss.

I do hereby certify, That the foregoing is a true copy of the record in my office.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at Pittsburgh, the 15th November, A. D. 1803.

SAML. JONES, Recorder.

This paper I plainly saw must be a forgery--and took steps to ascertain the fact--for plainness sake, I leave out at this time the account of the oppression and cruelty I suffered, to pursue this paper, under pretence of which, I was torn by hired ruffians out of my house. I caused an examination to be made at Bordeaux, at the offices of the notaries with whom it was alledged this power of attorney was put on record, and from thence I have received the following certificates, duly attested by Mr. Lee the American consul.

TRANSLATION.

I, the undersigned, Raymond Seraphim Follure, notary imperial, residing in Bordeaux, acquirer and holder of the papers and business of Mr. Joseph Guy, notary of this town, deceased the twenty-sixth of

Fructidor, in the year thirteen, or twelfth September, one thousand eight hundred and five, Declare to all those whom it may concern. that I have not recorded on the sixteenth of May last, nor any other period, any power of attorney in the name of John Marie, of Philadelphia, whereof I have convinced myself by an examination of the records of my office

Bordeaux, the twenty-third December, one thousand eight hundred and seven.

(Signed) FOLLURE.

(Sealed.)

The above signature, that R S. Follure, notary public of this place, I, the undersigned, commercial agent of the United States of America for the port and district of Bordeaux, have hereunto put my hand and seal of office.

Bordeaux, December 23d, 1807.

WILLIAM LEE.

I, the undersigned, John Paulin Barbarie, notary at Bordeaux, certify, to all those whom it may concern. that I have not recorded any instrument whatever, since the first of January, eigteen hundred and six, to this day, executed by John Marie of Philadelphia.

Whereof I have convinced myself by an examination of the records of my office.

Bordeaux, the 22d day of December, 1807.

(Signed) BARBARIE

In testimony that the above signature is that of Paulin Barbarie, notary purlic—I the undersigned, commercial agent of the United States, for the port of Bordeaux, have hereunto put my hand and seal of office

Bordeaux, the 23d of December, 1807.

WM LEE.

I wrote to my husband describing the cruel treatments I had experienced, and implored his return to me—which he did; upon my husband's return from France which was in July, 1806, he remained in Philadelphia with me about ten-weeks, when we agreed that he should proceed to Pittsburg in order to secure two bonds of 800 dollars each, one made out for and in my name, and the other for and in the name of our daughter, Caroline Marie. Upon my representing to him the cruelty with which I had been treated, he was indignant, and he declared that he would sue Mr. Ross if it cost him all he had on earth: and on exhibiting to him a copy of the alledged power of attorney, he made the following declaration on oath, and subscribed his name thereto, on the same paper on which the copy of the spurious power of attorney is written, on the same day that he set off for Pittsburgh.

I. John Marie, doth solemnly swear, that I never gave the written power of attorney, or deputed those gentlemen within mentioned, to act for me in any respect, or ever meant to distress my wife and child in any respect; as witness my hand, this twentieth day of September, 1806.

JOHN MARIE.

These cruel transactions, are more fit for a court of justice —and I am not well enough qualified to lay them before the public in a proper manner; but as the courts and lawyers, and indeed all the people at and near Pittsburgh, are in terror of James Ross; and he has brought these things forth, I owe it to myself, and to the public, to lay the whole transactions before them—I believe every candid person will see in even this part of my case, that Mr. Ross has not acted towards a helpless woman, as a man of honour—nor as any good man can sanction or justify under any pretence—but what is the scene of chicanary here exposed compared with what remains to be told—what will be said to a paper intended as a vindication of Mr. Ross, that his vindication alledges a *divorce* to have taken place between me and my husband. The public should know that I was married to Mr. Marie in this city, 28 years ago —and that the ground upon which Mr. Ross lays claim to my house, is this divorce, which his defence says, was obtained only 12 months ago. Delicacy will not permit me to utter the alledged ground of this divorce—if the ground was such as is alledged, surely after devoting from my seventeenth year full 28 years of my life to my husband; it was too late, in 1807 for Mr. Ross to justify his seizure of my house in 1803, in the manner he did, upon an alledged infirmity of my husband, when the very paper published in the name of my unfortunate husband as a vindication of Mr. Ross, declares that the money he vested was to support his family—what family? his wife and daughter.

JANE MARIE.

Philada. Sept. 20, 1808.

LETTER II.

Had the laws afforded me that shelter against oppression—that refuge from wrong—that redress for injury of the most savage and brutal nature, which had been done me by James Ross—had the courts of justice even been tedious in enforcing that justice of which they have the name—could I have found lawyers to vindicate my wrongs, or assert my claims, or to demand redress for bodily violence done on the person of a helpless and defenceless woman—an address in print from one of my sex might be perhaps indiscreet; at least had I any other tribunal before which I had a hope of justice, I should have reluctantly made this appeal to the tribunal of the public—but my oppressor is a lawyer himself, he is a favorite of the courts, and the courts being composed of lawyers, how can a helpless woman hope for justice.

I have employed lawyers to prosecute Mr. Ross for the property which he has torn from me and my child—I have employed lawyers to prosecute Mr. Ross for the cruel and barbarous *beating which he has personally inflicted on me* and on my unfortunate child—the magistrate who dressed the wounds inflicted on my face and body by the hands of *James Ross*, declared he despaired of obtaining justice for me, even for the bodily violence done to my person by James Ross—the magistrate indeed summonsed him, but what did James Ross care for the summons of a magistrate, he who was and is superior to all magistrates and courts in the neighbourhood, what is the summons or the process of a court of law to him—it is only to serve the purposes of such great men as James Ross, that courts of law appear to be instituted—a helpless woman has no chance, not even a chance of redress, where such a man as James Ross is the wronger.

The very lawyers with whom I had placed the affidavits of the outrages done against me—whom I had feed to prosecute James Ross; I ought perhaps only to say that one, Mr. *Henry Baldwin*, with whom I deposited the affidavits of the cruelty and bodily injury done to my person, that evidence I have not been able to obtain out of the hands of Mr. Baldwin. I state these facts as my apology for appearing with my own name before a humane public. I have no other remedy left—I had a house and home—Mr. Ross is in possession of it, he lives in it, and looks down from the summit of Grant's Hill, every tree, and shrub, and avenue, every pebble of the walks in which bear the remembrance of my personal industry—Grant's Hill, from a desart, was converted into a paradise; the taste of my husband, and the industry of my own hands, for 17 happy years, combined to convert the desert which we found as rude as nature, into that state of elegance, which is now the habitation of James Ross.

To me it was indeed for 17 years a paradise—in the hasty collection of authentic papers, which I published through the permission of Mr. Duane, in his paper, in that publication and the publication of Mr. Ross, to which it was a reply, it will be seen how Mr. Ross came to possess himself of Grant's Hill, every tree, and shrub, and stone of which, if they had tongues, would carry horror and remorse to his soul.—But the public are yet to learn how I was driven out of my only home, and thrown helpless and forlorn upon the benevolence of strangers, and the commisseration of those who knew me in my youthful years. It is a cruel case for a woman like me, tenderly brought up in this city, married in this city by bishop White, in October 1779, now in the 46th year of my age, to be thus obliged to address the public—but it is my fate—and I must bear up against it with that resolution which the wrongs I have suf-

fered demand--It is a woman, who on her face bears at this momen , the traces of the wounds inflicted on her *by the hands of James Ross*—who now addresses you.—I will now relate how I was dispossessed of that little paradise, which my hands had 17 years cultivated, and from which James Ross looks down upon Pittsburgh, with what feelings I leave all christian people to suppose.

In the reply which I made to Mr. Ross's vindication, published by gen. Wilkins of Pittsburgh ; I shewed that my husband had left me a power of attorney on his departure for France, in January 1803 ; and I gave the copy of a paper which was afterwards shewn to me—that is after I had been by outrageous cruelty and violence torn out of my house, the paper called a power of attorney.

My husband was a native of France, and as most people have a desire to see their native country, he growing old, being born in 1727–1728, took advantage of the peace in Europe in 1803, and went to France. For more than a year before his departure I heard nothing of such an intention, though he had often before expressed the desire to see France before he died. He left Pittsburgh on the 3d of January 1803, in company with Mr. Ross. No dispute, no anger, no difference on any matter whatever, preceded his departure ; as he grew in years he was occasionally peevish, but my disposition was not to notice it, nor indeed to reply or aggravate a petulence that many good people are not free from.

I before stated that the first I heard of any bargain between Mr. Ross and my husband was from Mrs. Semple, and when I first saw the paper alledged to be the power of attorney.

Mr. Ross, who was then a worthy member of the senate of the United States, returned to Pittsburgh, to attend the courts of law in the spring ; and I believe it was the end of March or beginning of April he came to my house at Grant's Hill, and proceeded without ceremony first to look over all parts of the place, and then told me that he had bought the house from my husband.

Knowing that the laws protected me in my right, and that my husband could not sell any real estate without my consent, I treated it lightly at first ; but he assuming a stern air, though he failed to frighten me, I told him that he had nothing to do with my property, nor should I part with it ; and as my husband had obtained my signature to the conveyance of other real estate which he sold with my consent to Mr. Stevenson, upon consideration of never parting or requiring me to part with Grant's Hill, which my husband said constantly he meant to reserve for his daughter, I felt perfectly secure, and spoke with the firmness of that confidence.

Mr. Ross then assumed a soothing tone—he condescended even to complaisance—but this course was no more successful with me than the other, and he departed menacing me with the utmost vengeance of the law—

I believe it was two or three days after that I received a letter from him, of which the following is a copy—the original, in Mr. Ross's hand writing, I have placed it in the hands of the printer.

Pittsburgh, 1 *April*, 1803.

MADAM,

Mr. Marie, your husband, by his deed dated the fourteenth of January last, sold and conveyed to me, in fee simple, the house where you live, together with the lot on which it is situated, containing upwards of six acres, with all the buildings and improvements thereon. By the same deed he bound himself to give me quiet peaceable possession of the premises on this day, in as good order as on the day of sale—to deliver the gardening tools, to leave all the grates in the house, and a young cow, for which we agreed at the time of sale.

When I visited you the other day, you expressed an unwillingness to comply with this sale of your husband, and a disposition to hold possession of the property by force. I hope that on better advice and consideration you will see the manifest propriety of giving me possession, releasing your possibility of dower, and of fully executing this contract so far as the execution of it depends upon you. For this purpose, and to take possession of all for me, I send Mr Meason, the bearer hereof, who will wait upon you, and know your determination respecting this business.

On my return from Greensburgh, I was greatly surprised at finding your letter of the 23d instant, stating my disposition to receive a repayment of my money, and a cancelling of my bargain with Mr. Marie.

I certainly never made, or agreed to such a proposal—nor can I ever consent that any person concealing his name and agency in such an affair, should ever have the controul over the property I have purchased. What use would there be in cancelling the bargain, and returning the property to Mr. Marie? He does not ask it, he does not wish it. Your own good sense must certainly be aware, that no benefit can be intended to you by those who advise you in such insidious propositions, which they are afraid to make themselves. There would be no mystery, if there were not hidden designs, which would not bear examination. I cannot, for a moment think of so inadmissible a proposal.

I will afford me great pleasure to see the agreement fairly executed. I am well persuaded that your own interest is deeply at stake in seeing it speedily fulfilled; and that your refusal will be attended with *serious misfortunes to yourself*—Those who advise you to refusal will not be the sufferers, but they hope to profit by that which can never be remedied should it happen to you.

Be assured that, on my part, I will readily do any thing towards a peaceable adjustment, *which any counsel you may engage*, shall say is justly or honorably expected from me.

I am Madam,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES ROSS.

Mrs. Jane Marie.

This letter speaks a very plain language---the law, which secured me my right as a wife and a female, was no stumbling block to Mr. Ross---he even treated it with ridicule only as a bare *possibility;* so little did it stand in his way that he sent his agent to take possession, though I had peremptorily resisted and refused to part with my right; nay, an overture to return him any money which my husband had taken, is treated with as much surprize as if I had proposed to rob him of so much

Another feature in this letter is the menace held out against any person who should dare to lend or give me the money, which he supposes must be the case, and the angry threats display the character of this man in a manner more forcible than I can find words to express.

Mr. Marie had sold his right he says---and Mr. Marie did not wish to revoke the bargain; but supposing it to be true, that Mr. Marie did receive money; yet Mr Marie could not repeal the law that secured my right, nor after the recorded obligation that he had entered into, never to part with that place, had he himself a right to sell even his former share I consented to sell other property in consideration of retaining Grant's Hill; Mr. Marie had recorded this obligation himself; so that Mr. Marie had no right to sell, and I was positively and irrevocably bound to preserve the property of my daughter.

Mr Ross says, "*there would be no mystery, if there were not hidden designs, which would not bear examination*" The humane public now see where the hidden designs were, though more of them yet remain to be revealed---for in the last paragraph but one of his letter, he appears to have formed his designs---for he tells me "your interest is deeply at stake in see-"ing it (his wishes) speedily fulfilled, and that your refusal "will be attended with *serious misfortunes to yourself.*"

The public will now see, how awfully and woefully for me, this prediction was verified but what interests had I at stake---my husband was in France I wrote to him to return---but the accidents of life might deprive me of him---my daughter our only child, and the little paradise of Grant's Hill, which was to me as another child, for I had, reared it from its wildness and infancy up, to be the admiration for elegance and beauty and tasteful improvement, of all the western country, and of travellers---this was the only stake left me---deprived of that, I had nothing; and I could not have believed, had I even suspected, that the menaces of Mr. Ross, would be carried into such cruel perpetration, as I am to relate.

I fear I engage more of their time than the public may be willing to bestow at once on a history of so much iniquity---I shall take the liberty of giving in another letter, if possible,

a narrative of the indecent, the obscene the barbarous outrages, that were committed on me, in expeling me from my last stake---when the door was broken open with an axe---when I was torn from my bed-chamber, by the hair of the head, seized by the legs by a vile ruffian, of the name of Giffin, who had been twice in jail for robbery, and dragged senseless and naked, into the public street, where I lay an object of horror to the passengers, who dared not, at the risk of life, to interfere or rescue me from the hands of savages---it is too horrible to reflect on.

JANE MARIE.

Philada. Sept. 20, 1808.

LETTER III.

I beseech the indulgence of the public for appearing so often before them, and engaging so much of their attention; but my case in the deprivation of my dower, my case in being torn, by ruffians, out of my house in noon day—my case in appealing to the laws without any effect, but additional ruin—my case, after living in peace, and after devoting 28 years of my life to a husband, *may be the case of other women*, if the laws are so unavailing, that a county lawyer can keep a whole county in terror, and trample upon the most sacred laws and obligations.

In my reply to the vindication of Mr Ross, by his bosom friend, John Wilkins, I shewed that my husband had bound himself never to require me to part with Grant's Hill, I gave a copy of the record, and I left the original in the hands of the printer; several persons of credit have called and seen and inspected that paper, and the letters in James Ross's hand writing, and the notarial papers from Bordeaux.

A man of honor, a man of the least spark of humanity, a generous, virtuous man, would have scorned to interfere between man and wife, even if they had quarreled, which my husband and I had not. A good man, regardful of his moral character, would, when he saw the husband gone, and the wife with her child, left as it were a widow—a good man would have hesitated even with a strong legal right, before he would have disturbed a woman in her own house; if the husband had made a sale without the wife's knowledge, when he found it out (if he did not before know it) he would have spurned at the idea of turning a helpless woman out of her own doors, with her infant child, into the street—But Mr. Ross was above feelings or considerations of this nature—

there was no such place, as I had selected for a dwelling, about Pittsburgh, it had the advantage of contiguity and elevation, it commands the most delightful prospects, it overlooks the town of Pittsburgh, and the incessant industry of 17 years of my life, for I had no other pleasures but domestic concerns, and the care of my garden and grounds---such a situation presented to Mr. Ross's view, objects superior to the vulgar ideas of humanity, respect for my sex, tenderness for my child, or regard for the laws which were made to protect a wife against the profligacy or depravity of a husband.

Mr Ross's letter of the first of April, I published in my preceding address---I now publish another; the original, in Mr. Ross's hand writing, is also in the hands of the printer.

Pittsburgh, 20 *May*, 1803.

MADAM,

In answer to your note of this morning, I can only repeat what I have heretofore stated to you; that no person will offer to pay any money for you to me, without having a conveyance of the title for their security. Whoever makes you such an offer, has a secret design to get the property into his own hands, and to do both you and me an injury. I have never had the least disposition to permit so unwarrantable a thing to take place, even although, in a pecuniary point of view, it might be made advantageous to myself.

Certainly I am far from intending any injustice towards you, and if you will authorise any reasonable man to adjust this business for you with me, I am persuaded your interest will be promoted by carrying the contract between Mr. Marie and myself into effect;—any person who is really your friend will tell you, that the pursuit of a different course will not advance, but must, in the end, *destroy your real interest and happiness.*

If those who promise to pay the money mean to act fairly, why conceal their names? Let them come forward and state their expectations, their reasons for interference, and the nature of their agency; you will then see that no good is intended to you.

I will readily confer with any person you may send to make a fair and proper arrangement for ending all difficulties, and I will pay the money even before it is due, upon having the contract carried into complete execution.

I am Madam,
Your humble servant.

JAMES ROSS.

MRS. MARIE.

By this letter of Mr. Ross it appears---for the public will see, that all the evidence I give, is the evidence of my enemies, I assert nothing that depends on evidence merely on my own word; I give the records of courts and the hand writing of Mr. Ross, and the hand writing of my husband, as the ground of all, and the proof of all that I have said---no one can say I have forged James Ross's hand writing, for I give the origi-

nal—no one can say I forged the power of attorney given me by my husband, for James Ross is the witness and, the hand writing of the power of attorney is his—so is the letter, which I beg any one who has a doubt of it, will call and see and examine.—By this letter it appears acknowledged that I offered to pay Mr. Ross a sum of money equal in amount to the sum of money he said he had paid my husband:—Mr. Ross then could not have suffered any loss—and Mr Ross by taking back so much money, might have at least have some credit on the score of humanity and respect for the rights secured to married females by law—he might have escaped the reproaches of conscience, which must haunt him while he lives.

Mr. Ross never once deigns to consider *my* legal right—though the laws have made provision for female dower—he never deigns to consider that he is seeking to turn me out of my house and home, and to deprive me of the property, irrevocably secured to me and my child by a recorded deed—Mr Ross appears to consider himself above all law, and so it appears he is—he endeavours to discover whether there is not some person who ventures to be my friend to lend me money in private, to save me from want, but who does not openly avow himself; his anxiety is to discover who it is that thus dares within the region over which he rules with despotism, who dares to aid and secure a friendless woman, deserted by her husband, and assailed by the tyrant of the district—he looks for that friend to satiate his vengeance—and considers generosity when exercised towards a woman, as treason against the despot of Allegheny.

I leave further reflections on this letter to the reader, for if I was to express all the indignation it produces in me, I should trespass too much with my afflicted feelings on public attention—I therefore hasten to other particulars

I had fixed by an irrevocable oath my purpose of securing the place of Grant's Hill for my daughter's inheritance—and of course my reply to Mr. Ross's agent, Mr. Meason, was according to that right which I possessed, and the resolution which I had taken.

The *misfortunes* with which Mr. Ross had menaced me very soon began to be manifest; my reputation was now assailed; the people of the neighbourhood graduadly withdrew or became shy of me; any one who appeared to be my friend was soon made sensible of the danger of being so; and threats and menaces were thrown out which I confess at last seriously alarmed me for my personal safety; accordingly, I determined to sell off my household furniture, the prime cost of which was more than fifteen hundred dollars, beside the additions of curtains, chairs and sofa furniture, and all those

little things which domestic industry adds to the embellishment and convenience of house-keeping, without calculating it as expence or value laid out ---My purpose was to rent my house and place, reserving to myself and child a single apartment, there to await the return of my husband from France. I accordingly advertised my house to let, and my furniture for sale

I was particularly determined upon this course by a circumstance that had come to my knowledge, soon after the above letter and threatenings of Mr. Ross In May of that year I had hired as a gardener, one John Brumley, who being a married man, and under an obligation to me for undertaking to pay a debt of 80 dollars for him to Mr Henderson of Pittsburgh, I thought I should be more secure from the danger at least of personal violence from the ruffians that hang about the jails in the western country, who are always ready to do any vile office for influential characters about the courts.

Brumley, though he had incurred debt, was the son of a very respectable farmer, and retained some feelings of pride and generosity, among some failings ; his wife had been invited from my house to the house of Mr. Ross, to drink tea, and as I understood, an offer of 200 dollars was held out to Brumley if he would undertake to put me out of the house and put Mr. Ross in possession---Mrs. Brumley, like a good woman, rejected the temptation---Brumley, for this refusal, was threatened with vengeance, and he preferred going away in my debt for what I had undertaken to pay for him and other money advanced him, to aiding in turning me and my child out of our own doors.

This was what determined me to sell my furniture---a Frenchman of the name of Arnout or Arnold, was sent to me to take the house, and as I was informed, he was to have 200 dollars for giving Mr. Ross possession, but Mr. Arnout divulged the plot to captain Bebee at Pittsburgh, and to Mrs. Loveless who lived there

My furniture was advertised for sale for the 2d of August, 1803 ; and some progress was made in the sale ; on the next day, that is the 3d day of August, a day which is a dishonour to civil society, a reproach to the state of Pennsylvania, a scandal to the morals of the people, and a melancholy evidence, that there are men above all law, as well as above all feelings of humanity in this country of boasted freedom, as well as in the most barbarous tyrannies that we read of in books or newspapers. I shudder while I endeavor to give some account, consistent with decorum---consistent with the decency of my sex-- I tremble while I attempt to convey a feint idea of the cruelty---the blows, in-

flicted on my person, the manner in whicwnIwas seized by the hair of the head, dragged by the legs dos m y own stairs, by a gang of hired ruffians, beaten with tcks and whips, and---blessed and merciful God, forgive me while truth compels me to declare, that I was thrown in a state of utter inability, to move or extricate myself, without any other garment than a shift and a single petticoat on my person, and even these were brutally torn, and such scandalous acts of brutal indelicacy as I cannot---as are too horrible for me to describe.

It was on the third day of August 1803, that the sale of my furniture was to proceed; and I had all my linen and clothes in the wash; a little after ten oclock, I was told that there was a gang of men coming to stop the sale; and a man who had been twice in prison for robbery, and had been screened as a convenient man about the courts, was at the head of them, that there was one Brown one Simon Small, one Barkley, a man of the name of Love, and six or seven others of the like character, among them; I determined to shut my doors, which I did; they soon came, two of them first lifted the latch, demanded admission with horrid imprecations; they forced open the door by violence and entered tumultuously huzzaing; I sent a person immediately to the elder Mr. Wilkins, I sent for Mr. Baldwin the lawyer; they both came; the former would not interfere; the latter warned those ruffians not to touch any thing—*they replied that they had the orders of Mr. Ross!* I had retired up stairs to my own room; there was a washing going on, and the people about me fled affrighted, as I was myself, though unshaken in my purpose to maintain my right. They proceeded up stairs and hallooed out to me to deliver the keys; I made no answer; but being thin clad, the weather being warm, and being myself aiding in the washing, endeavored to get on some clothes, but a blow of a wood axe soon shattered my chamber door; and the ruffians, headed by this thief Giffin, seized me by the hair of the head and dragged me to the stairs, with blows from others I was deprived of my senses, and as I understand and the bruised condition of my head verifies it, I was seized by the legs, and with my head knocking against my own stairs, draggéd out into the street, and thrown senselessly on the street—it was about eleven o'clock, and it was a scorching sun—under which I lay unsheltered, and without any kind or benevolent being who had courage to oppose themselves to the vengeance of James Ross, by interfering to protect or to rescue me from the cruel and savage scoffing, the brutal and indecent outrages on my senseless body in open day!

This statement I know is such as many will scarce be-

lieve possible---many will not credit that such deeds could be perpetrated by the savage Indians on a helpless female ; but alas ! it is too true, and it does not rest on my assertion—and it was only to the interference of a waggoner, who passing by the place saw the cruel riot ; his name, may benevolence never desert him or his progency ; may the blessings that good actions communicate to the soul, not be his only reward—this waggoner was named Henry Neyman or Nighman, for I cannot spell his name, and the affidavit of the facts sworn to by him is in the possession of Mr Baldwin, nor have I been able to obtain that paper and others out of Mr. Baldwin's hands ; indeed if self preservation can justify such things, Mr. Baldwin is only protecting himself from the vengeance and ruin which James Ross might inflict on him, if he were to render me, even as my lawyer, an act of justice.

But the substance of *Henry Neyman's* affidavit, is to be found in a letter from a gentleman of credit, which is placed in the hands of the printer, and of which I have requested the printer to make such an extract as he may judge fit for publication---

Extract from the above letter.

" *Henry Neyman says, when passing Marie's house, he saw Mrs. Marie laying in the street in the broiling sun ; being asked if she might not be lying drunk, he shook his head, and said ah, no no, she was senseless, and a fellow treating her ill ; that he, Neyman, was shocked at the vile conduct he saw, particularly towards a woman ; he interfered ; and the fellows abused him ; he made his way into the house, and there he heard several others, some of the most abandoned of mankind, glorying that they had pulled the bitch down and given her head a good thumping against the stairs, and stretched her legs proper wide ; Neyman says she had only her shift and bed gown on.*

" *Mr* Osborn, *a merchant of Pittsburgh, says he was passing by Marie's place, the same place in which Ross now lives, on the 3d August,* 1803, *and saw Mrs. Marie lying in the street, to appearance dead ; that the apparel she had, was so as to strike him with shame, and that he went himself and pulled her clothes over her person, for which he was abused ; Mr. Osborn, on being asked if he thought her intoxicated, he replyed, O fie sir, good God, I could not conceive such---I covered the injured woman, and only entered into a contest with the fellows from necessity.*"

I believe it was about sunset, that I felt the first return of sense, indeed it appeared to me, as if the sun were about to set for ever---and my afflicted soul in the first moments of awakened agony, would willingly have set for ever.

Old Mr. Wilkins, who would not interfere in the morning, now came, and after I had been torn thus out of my house, wanted to know where I meant to lodge! And no doubt this was humanity, since he was Mr. Ross's bosom friend As soon as I was able to reply, I told him that I had no home, nor did I know any place to lodge; my clothes as well as my furniture were all gone; they were lying part in fragments and part whole in the street. Old Mr Wilkins was anxious to know if my life was in danger; and he went to capt Bebee's tavern, and asked them to take me to lodge there--which they did--and here for three weeks I lay unable to go abroad, covered with bruises; I endeavoured to get out of the tavern to a private lodging--but I have narrated enough, and the reader will perhaps say too much for the credit of public morals and the laws of Pennsylvania. I shall endeavour to close my narrative in one letter more--with an account of the brutal violence inflicted on me by the hands of James Ross himself.

JANE MARIE.

LETTER IV.

I have laid before the public a plain narrative of facts, not mere allegations of mine nor of any other person, but on such evidence as is not always to be obtained in cases of aggravated and premeditated wrong—My misfortune is that I am a woman without money, and that my oppressor is a lawyer of great wealth and influence in the state, and who no man dares openly resist in the neighbourhood he resides at—but my case, as I have shewn it in the three letters that I have written, proves this strong enough.

In my last address, the cruelty and barbarity exercised on my person—the plunder of my house, the destruction and carrying away of my wearing apparel—my being carried to a tavern, where I remained, scarcely able to move, for several weeks, have been stated—my desire was not to remain at a tavern, but to seek some private lodging; but here the influence of Mr. Ross again presented itself to prevent even that escape from sorrow; I wished to be secluded from the gaze of the multitude, whose curiosity became daily more excited by the rumours of my real misfortunes, and the aggravation of calumny, that was put in circulation to diminish the force of public execration, and to serve as a palliation, and at length as an excuse for acts which if I had been the most infamous of my sex, no law, no charity, no humanity, no manly feeling would sanction what had been done against me.

The ruin of my reputation was now the only resource left, unless the destruction of my life; and the pains taken to accomplish it were not without effect on my peace and security. I, however, found a refuge in the house of Mr. Gray, a bricklayer, and here Mr. Steele Semple, one of Mr. Ross's friends, a man who had spent days and months at my house, who, in fact, married his wife out of my house, interfered to deprive me even of this shelter; but the magnanimity of Mr Gray resisted, and his indignation was such, that, instead of the first scanty accommodation afforded me, he provided me with a better and more comfortable lodging. While here, I endeavored to collect such fragments of my household furniture as escaped the wreck of the 3d of August, but they were retained also; and even the sums due me I found efforts made to prevent my being paid, and every artifice was employed to reduce me to such a state of need and despair as might compel me to comply with a legal surrender of Grant's Hill to James Ross, who, by this time, had it in his actual possession.

One Arnold, an itinerant shew-man or buffoon, was employed to negociate with me—whether to aggravate my injuries by the despicable character employed to make propositions, or that no decent man could be found to undertake it, under the odious circumstances of the case, I cannot say, but this Merry-Andrew came to me with a proposal from James Ross, that if I would sign away my property on Grant's Hill, I should have all my household furniture and other goods!—Could any human being believe that such daring contempt of law, right, and justice, could be perpetrated or endured in any civilized society.

I was told, that Messrs. Lucas, Johnston, Semple, and Collins, the gentlemen whose names were used in the paper published in my first letter of Saturday last, that they had some meetings, but at whose instigation I know not; certainly not at mine, nor with my consent; I acknowledged no power in them to meddle with my property in any shape; and I was informed that Lucas and Johnston did, at last, express some doubts, wondering that Mr. Marie should not have sent letters of advice to them, as is usual; and appeared to think it very extraordinary, that, after leaving me a power of attorney dated the fourteenth of January, 1803, at Pittsburgh, he should, suddenly, by another paper of the ninth of May, 1803, at Bordeaux, all at once abandon his wife, and supercede the power vested in her, and give an authority to sell her out of a house and home which he had bound himself, by a previous deed, never to claim or interfere with.

Mr. Ross, however, was for selling the fragments of my goods at three months credit, and keeping the money, and I

am told Messrs. Semple and Collins perfectly agreed in his opinion ; but Messrs. Lucas and Johnston resisted this aggravation of wickedness. The goods that escaped or could be collected in a mutilated state were brought together, sets of pictures and large lustres were broken, and some torn from their frames ; bedsteads were deprived of their sacking, and the hinges and legs of mahogany tables broken ; curtains, on which, during the domestic leisure of seventeen years of my life, I had bestowed all the pains of domestic industry and taste, for which the habits in which I had been reared in this city qualified me, and to which qualifications I am now, in my 46th year, driven to obtain my support ; out of all the wreck, and the remains of the liquors which were in my cellars, I did not collect more than brought 600 dollars—when Ross heard that I had even recovered so much, he gnashed his teeth—and expressed an exulting thought, " this will last her about a year, and then she must give it up."

Uncertain when my husband would return, or what I should do, and much weakened and unable to conclude on the course best to pursue ; I continued hovering round my child, and in the neighbourhood of that place, upon which I had wasted so many years of my prime of life, and which I calculated upon as the refuge of my latter years, and some little portion for my child—

It was about five or six months after—I think it was in the month of April following, it was my hard fortune to fall under the hands of James Ross in person. It was in the evening, and my child and self, with a servant girl, were walking for recreation and health ; my child, as we passed our door (the reader must not suppose it to be my lodgings, it was the house out of which I was forced on the the 3d of August,) my child exclaimed " *O mama, see what beautiful paper they have put on our entry*"—I wished not to look that way, the scene that was productive to me of much felicity, was now surrounded with horror—I glanced my eye involuntarily in the direction which my child had directed it—behold the demon who had unseen inflicted so many wrongs, presented himself in person before me —*James Ross*, himself, sprung forth upon me, in his hand he bore an enormous whip of cowhide, such are used by waggoners, and with horrid imprecations fell upon me with this weapon ; he beat my child, and not contented with the lash which he had broken upon me, he clubbed it, and with the but of that whip, he reacted the scene of butchery, which the ruffians of the 3d of August had so cruelly begun ; feeble and weighty in my person, I made an effort to escape, but insensible and blinded by the blows and wounds that I had received on my face and eyes, I ran against a fence and there fell—how I recovered I know not—

Mr. Henry Brackenridge, son of the judge, Mr. Mountain the attorney, Mr. Ayres the attorney, Mr. Samuel Smith, carpenter, and Mr. Osborne, saw the transactions, and saw Ross pursue me across the street.

When recovered, I waited on Dr. Richardson to dress my wounds--my face at this moment exhibits the impression of *James Ross's* manliness, in a wound across my cheek inflicted by his savage hands; Dr. Richardson did with great tenderness and humanity dress my wounds--the apparel I then wore, I retain, and if there is to be had a lawyer who is not afraid to vindicate the injured against the oppressor--if there is a court in which justice is any more than a name, if there is a jury with honesty and a sense of justice, before whom justice can be had, I will there exhibit the apparel I wore, with the streams of blood drawn from my head, face and neck, *by the hands of James Ross.*

Dr. Richardson was also a magistrate, and I demanded process to be issued against James Ross. It was a hard demand upon that gentleman, and if justice is to be superceded by self preservation, I cannot surely blame Dr. Richardson, whose practice as a physician, and whose standing as a magistrate, whose every hope in that part of the country, Ross might destroy, if Dr Richardson did attempt to enforce legal process--he issued a summons, and trembled for the temerity he displayed in such a bold act--James Ross received the summons, but what was a summons to him, he set it at defiance--and I was and am without redress--I thenceforth kept close within doors, and having disposed of every thing I could, made my way to this city in May 1804, where I have lived since, casually dependent on the goodness of respectable people who knew me in my early years; and obtaining by needle work occasional means to render me as little dependent upon my friends as I possibly can.

I employed Messrs. Baldwin and Mountain before my departure, to sue Mr. Ross in my behalf--but the law is never hasty in the case of its ministers--I do not wish to encumber myself with any auxiliary oppression, than that I have felt--I go straight forward to the great source and original fountain of my afflictions, James Ross.

In July, 1806, my husband returned to me from France, and found me living here; we resided at Kensington from that time to the 20th September, 1806. My history, since his departure, naturally became a constant topic of discourse, and constantly excited his rage; he disclaimed all concern in the alledged power of attorney, and declared his determination to go to Pittsburgh and bring Ross to justice, if justice was to be had, and to prosecute him for my wrongs. With this declared

purpose he set off for Pittsburgh, and most truly did I believe him, and felt, at least, the consolation that injury always derives from the hope of justice.

He had gone but a few weeks, when I learned that toils were laid for Mr. Marie, which threatened me with an aggravation of the past wrongs, rather than the redress I had looked to with so much confidence. I was, indeed, told that the very lawyers, Messrs. Baldwin and Mountain, whom I had before engaged to prosecute Ross, were now engaged by him *against me.* "*Against me!*" I exclaimed when I heard of it—" and what have I done to fear them." Alas! I knew but little of what lawyers are capable, or what the law is capable of being made to do—but I determined to meet it; my husband, old and feeble in mind indeed, but still my husband. Deficient of any means, I reported to Mr. Morrel, one of the guardians of the poor, and obtained a loan of 40 dollars; and on the 17th of January, 1807, with my child, I set off for Pittsburgh, and took lodgings at the house of Mrs. Murphy; Mr. Marie had gone to the house of *Felix Brunot*, who lived many years in this city, and now practices as a *doctor* on an island about five miles below Pittsburgh. I wrote to Mr. Marie, but received no written answers; whether my letters were intercepted or not, I cannot swear, because I can only draw the inference from his not answering, and because Brunot came to me with a proposition similar to that which was made me by the other respectable agent, Arnold, to sign the deeds, make over Grant's Hill to Mr. Ross, and I should have a handsome reward, and hear no more of what had passed. It may be easily guessed that this overture was not likely to prevail.

The law was now to assume a new and more horrible aspect.

In a few days there appeared an advertisement in the name of my husband, cautioning any person against trusting me on my husband's account. My means indeed were slender, and had it not been for the benevolence of Mrs. Murphy, I must have perished with my child---I remained four months constantly seeking to obtain an interview with my husband without effect---and finding that my means of subsistence were exhausted, and hearing of some legal proceeding, I employed *young Wilkins* to defend me, with this express direction, that as the jurors and all other persons in Allegheny, were in terror of Mr. Ross, that any suit in which I was concerned should be removed to the supreme court, and tried by a jury that was free from his influence, and the terror of it. Notwithstanding these directions, I am told that Mr. Wilkins, who is the brother of that friend who has undertaken to vindicate Mr Ross's morality, did disregard my instructions, and it is said a trial of some kind that I

cannot comprehend nor can I find *men*, who are usually better informed than my sex, who comprehend how or by what means a *divorce* could be obtained.---The allegations which it is reported, and I have no other than rumor for it, are in extreme contradiction with reason, with every idea of justice, with the tenderness which a parent owes to his child. even if he hates his wife ; with every notion that reflection or judgment can call forth. But it is said that Mr. Marie, from being a fond, tender and kind father, has been transformed, in the 81st year of his age, into a selfish misanthrope, and has been persuaded at once to abandon wife and child and reputation---and for what adequate motive. He has certainly either tacitly suffered or actually aided in this wrong ; but after marrying Mr. Marie in the 17th year of my age---after being his wife for 28 years, in sickness and in health, for better or worse---am I in my advanced state of life, to be thus made the sport of fortune, and the victim of accumulated wrong, merely because I had selected a beautiful spot of ground at Grant's Hill, and converted it into a garden of delight---am I to suffer all this---is such cruelty to be tolerated in a christian country---are the laws then such cobwebs, as that all this may be done with impunity---merely because James Ross took a liking to the house and ground that are mine according to every human law.

I have trespassed on the public patience---and if my habits have not enabled me to relate my unfortunate history with brevity, the reader, will make indulgence for an afflicted woman.

JANE MARIE.

APPENDIX, A.

FOR THE AURORA.

MR. DUANE—You will herewith receive the statement of Mr. Marie himself, detailing the circumstances of the sale of his property at *Grant's Hill*, to Mr. Ross. In this there will be found nothing of "*grossness, cruelty or horror*"—as it is impossible to anticipate the story of Mrs. Marie, to which you allude in very strong terms in your paper of this morning, it cannot now be guarded against. But from my knowledge of every fact connected with this business, I am entirely satisfied, nothing can be truly said, injurious to the reputation of Mr. Ross. As the transaction took place three hundred miles from this city, it is, in justice, to be regretted, that Mrs. Marie's statement had not been published in time to afford an opportunity of procuring disinterested evidence of the facts from Pittsburg. When it appears, however, it will be repelled, by the best means in our power. Be pleased to publish this note, with the statement.

Sept. 22, 1808.

In the fall of the year 1802, I was desirous to sell my real estate, where I then lived, on Grant's Hill, adjoining Pittsburg, and made proposals for that purpose to several gentlemen, who declined giving me the price I asked, I finally offered the property to Mr. Ross, who agreed to my terms, and paid me two thousand dollars in hand, and gave me his two bonds for eight hundred dollars, each payable in six and twelve months, being the residue of the purchase money, Mr. Ross never solicited the purchase from me, nor did I ever explain to him my intention to leave my family and go to France—I however went to France, and (having made Mr. Ross no regular conveyance of the land before I left America,) forwarded thence a letter of attorney to Thomas Collins, Steele Semple, John B. Lucas and John Johnston, authorising and requiring them to carry my contract with Mr. Ross into effect, to receive the balance of the purchase money, and to vest it for the support of my family. The sale to Mr. Ross was violently opposed by my then wife, she refused to sign a conveyance, or to give up possession of the property, (though I had made what was a very liberal allowance for her support,) and my attornies were obliged to resort to legal measures, before Mr. Ross could obtain possession. On my return from France in August, 1806, the title of Mr. Ross was still incomplete, as my wife had not signed any deed, shortly after I obtained a divorce from her, and then perfected the title—upon which Mr. Ross immediately and without a moment's delay, honorably paid me the whole balance of the purchase money and interest, and settled with me to my entire satisfaction. I know that Mr. Ross had much trouble about this business, but none ever arose from me, I have been at all times fully satisfied with his conduct towards me, and am very sorry that any reports injurious to

his character should have circulated with reference to this transaction, they are altogether unfounded, and since I am perfectly satisfied, I do not know what right others have to interfere in it; I am now past 80 years of age, and too far advanced in life to take any interest in party politics, I have retired to spend my days with a worthy friend, and hope that my name will not again be used for any purposes of party---I am sorry that it has been used to injure Mr Ross, but since it has been so, I find it my duty to thus publicly declare that his conduct to me in this business, has been perfectly satisfactory, fair and honorable.

Brunnot's Island, Allegheny county, Sept. 6th, 1808.

JOHN MARIE.

Mr. Marie has lived with me for 2 years past, and as his friend he has been very confidential to me in conversing on his concerns, I have never heard him on any occasion express the least dissatisfaction at the conduct of Mr. Ross, but at all times the contrary---as the friend of Mr Marie, and as he was too far advanced in age to attend to his business, I assisted him to settle with Mr. Ross, and it was done to our entire and mutal satisfaction. 6th Sept. 1808.

FELIX BRUNOT.

We have perused the foregoing statement of Mr. John Marie, and do certify, that before the sale made by him to Mr. Ross, he offered the same to us at different times, but we declined purchasing, thinking the price asked was too great.

Pittsburgh, 6th Sept. 1808.

JOS. BARKER.
GEORGE STEVENSON.

B

THE FACTS.

Relating to the purchase made by Mr. Ross of John Marie. are these.

When Mr. Ross purchased and paid two thousand dollars in hand, and gave his bonds for the remainder, he knew nothing of Marie's intention of going to France, or of any private agreement, (if any there was) between him and his wife---the price he gave was a high one, and more than Marie could get from any other person---after Marie went to France, there was no person to whom Mr. Ross could pay the remainder of the purchase money, none being authorised to make him a title. Soon after Marie arrived in France he sent over a power of attorney (the authenticity of which he now and always has acknowledged) by virtue of which power the attornies of Marie took possession. In this transaction Mr. Ross had no ageucy nor was he present, it was carried into effect by the attornies of Marie, two of whom were Mr. Ross's most violent political opponents.---When Marie returned to this country and perfected the title, Mr. Ross without hesitation paid the remainder of the purchase money and interest. Mr. Ross having purchased of Marie, who had a right to sell, and having the moment the title was perfected paid the whole purchase money and interest, he certainly had nothing to do with nor could he take any part in the private agreements (if any there were) between Marie and his wife.

In Pittsburgh where the circumstances are well known, the story will not operate in the smallest degree to the prejudice of Mr. Ross; indeed his political opponents there have not attempted to publish or make any use of this transaction against him.

JOHN WILKINS

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